

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05420

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, XF, GW
SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: BONN 5293

1. DURING OUR MEETING ON MARCH 22, GENSCHER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BEGIN WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING A WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM LEBANON AND A RESUMPTION OF EFFORTS TO REACH A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT BEGIN WAS A DIFFICULT MAN TO DEAL WITH AND HE DID NOT ENVY THE PRESIDENT. GENSCHER THOUGHT IT OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE THAT BEGIN BE MADE AWARE THAT HIS POLICIES WOULD BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN DETERMINING WHETHER SADAT WOULD BE ABLE TO STAY ON IN OFFICE OR BE FORCED OUT BY MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS.
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2. GENSCHER SPOKE POSITIVELY ABOUT ARAB REACTION DURING THE PRESENT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. HE HAD MET WITH THE ARAB AMBASSADORS IN BONN ON MARCH 20 AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THEIR MODERATE PRESENTATION. THEY HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, NOT DEMANDED THE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL. GENSCHER THOUGHT HIS SESSION WITH THE

AMBASSADORS WAS INDICATIVE OF THE RESPONSIBLE ARAB (THOUGH NOT PALESTINIAN) ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT THE EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO WEEKS.

3. GENSCHER TOLD ME THAT SYRIAN FORN MIN KHADDAM WOULD BE MAKING A LONG-OVERDUE VISIT TO BONN, PROBABLY IN JULY. GENSCHER'S CLOSEST CONFIDANT, KLAUS KINKEL (DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE PLANNING STAFF) WAS PRESENTLY IN SYRIA WORKING, INTER ALIA, ON DETAILS OF THE VISIT. IN HIS TALKS WITH KHADDAM, GENSCHER WOULD EMPHASIZE GERMAN INTEREST IN RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT.

4. REFERRING TO THE UNSC DELIBERATIONS ON THE ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON, GENSCHER DESCRIBED US-FRG CONSULTATIONS AS A MODEL AND REFLECTIVE OF THE HEALTHY STATE OF OUR RELATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS PRESS SPOKESMAN TO STRESS THIS POINT, WHICH WAS ALREADY MADE BY THE FRG SPOKESMAN (REFTEL), IN BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS WITH REPORTERS. AS A RESULT OF THIS BACKGROUNDING WE NOTE THAT THE MARCH 23 GENERAL-ANZEIGER QUOTES INFORMED SOURCES IN BONN TO THE EFFECT THAT "THANKS TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRD WORLD CONCERNING THE UNSC RESOLUTION ON LEBANON. DUE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS CONSENSUS THE SOVIET UNION WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION DESPITE ITS OBJECTIONS. AS IS KNOWN HERE, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND SECRETARY VANCE DISCUSSED THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN THEIR PHONE CONVERSATION ON MARCH 20."

5. COMMENT: GENSCHER'S MEETING WITH THE ARAB AMBASSADORS PRODUCED SOME CONTRETEMPS WITH THE LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE. THE MEETING CAME ABOUT AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WHO ASKED IF THE ARAB AMBASSADORS COULD MEET WITH GENSCHER. TO GENSCHER'S SURPRISE, AS WELL AS THAT OF SOME OF THE AMBASSADORS, THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE ALSO SHOWED UP. (THE PLO IS NOT OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED IN BONN BUT HAS AN "INFORMATION OFFICE" WITHIN THE AUSPICES OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. THE OFFICE DIRECTOR, MR. FRANGI, HAS NO OFFICIAL STATUS.) FRANGI WAS TOLD HE WAS NOT AN ACCREDITED OFFICIAL AND WAS ASKED TO LEAVE. AFTER PROTESTING, FRANGI DEPARTED IN A HUFF AND ISSUED A STATEMENT THE FOLLOWING DAY ATTACKING THE GERMAN DECISION. STOESEL

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